



SR1339

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Robert Avery Weaver of Peoria, who passed away on July 4, 2014; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Weaver was born on August 25, 1923 in Fisher; his parents were Avery and Lena Weaver; and

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WHEREAS, At the age of 12, Robert Weaver borrowed money to purchase his first Angus heifer; in 1942, he moved to Peoria County to farm the Robin's Nest Farm; while in Peoria, he met his wife at the Ann Street Mennonite Church; he and his wife later attended the First United Methodist Church of Peoria; and

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WHEREAS, In 1948, Robert Weaver and his wife purchased what would become Weaver Angus Farm in Peoria; from its humble beginnings, he built Weaver Enterprises into a successful, diversified family business based on the principles of hard work, integrity, and vision; in 1964, he came to an agreement with Colonel Harlan Sanders on a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise partnership over a handshake; over the years, several KFC franchises would form the nucleus of Weaver Enterprises; and

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WHEREAS, A farmer at heart, Robert Weaver also owned one of

1 the premier herds of Black Angus cattle in the country; he
2 enjoyed exhibiting his pleasure driving horses at competitions
3 and events throughout the country and in Canada and England;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Robert Weaver was a member of many charitable
6 boards; he was a founder of Youth Farm and particularly enjoyed
7 his years of service on the Salvation Army Advisory Board,
8 where he was an emeritus board member; he was a member of the
9 New York Coaching Club and the Coaching Club of England; he was
10 an honorary life director of the Carriage Association of
11 America; he served as president of the Illinois Angus
12 Association and the Mennonite Relief Sale; he was also a member
13 of the Board of Governors of the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto
14 and the Youth for Christ Board; and

15 WHEREAS, Robert Weaver was a recipient of the William Booth
16 Award and the "Others" Award for his lifetime of service to his
17 community; he was a recipient of the Pioneer Angus Breeder
18 Award; he was an honoree in the American Angus Association
19 Heritage Hall of Fame and the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame;
20 he and his wife were also jointly honored as the Association of
21 Fundraising Professionals Philanthropists of the Year and as
22 Easter Seals Tribute Dinner honorees; and

23 WHEREAS, Robert Weaver was preceded in death by his parents

1 and 5 siblings, Florence Baltz Simonson, Opal Wilson, Glenn
2 Weaver, Dorothy Birkey, and Dr. Floyd Weaver; and

3 WHEREAS, Robert Weaver is survived by his wife of 69 years,
4 Virginia (nee Garber) Weaver; his children, Jerry (Nancy)
5 Weaver, Phyllis (Don) Crouch, Steve (Shelley) Weaver, Karen
6 (Bob Vespa) Weaver, and Chuck (Laurie) Weaver; a sister,
7 Darlene Weaver; 16 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren;
8 therefore, be it

9 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL
10 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we, along with his
11 family and friends, mourn the passing of Robert Avery Weaver;
12 and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
14 presented to the family of Robert Weaver as an expression of
15 our sympathy.